

Marion Soil & Water Conservation District



Special Projects Grant

The Mission of the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and improve the quality of soil and water in Marion County through planning, technical and financial assistance, & education.

Application and Instructions

Marion SWCD's Special Projects Grant Program (SPG) was established to demonstrate innovative and sustainable conservation projects, as well as speed the development and availability of new and effective conservation practices within the District. The SPG program seeks those conservation practices that represent a cutting edge conservation technique, technology, or Best Management Practice that is currently under represented in Marion County. These projects will then serve as models for others to confidently follow. Funded projects will offer the potential to work towards solving local area resource concerns by developing and implementing tools, ideas, or practices. The program is soliciting all applications proposing cutting edge conservation projects.

This grant is annually funded and intended to help individuals who may otherwise not have the financial means to install innovative conservation projects on their land. Completion of this application indicates that the individuals are agreeable to receiving technical assistance on the proposed project and will follow specifications set forth by the Marion SWCD.

- The maximum payment awarded to a successful grant application is \$5,000. Marion SWCD will pay 50% of the project cost, up to \$5,000. Individuals are required to provide 50% of the project funds, which can be provided as labor costs, materials, cash, or financial assistance from other sources. In addition, there is a \$15,000 maximum payout per entity in a five year period.
- Consultation fees, overhead costs, and equipment purchase will not be reimbursed by grant funding. However, some of these costs may be used as in-kind contribution to the project and will be determined upon the individual situation.
- If permits are required for the project, the applicant is responsible for obtaining and/or purchasing them.
- A maximum of one grant may be awarded per individual per year.
- An electronic version of the application form can be obtained at: <http://marionswcd.net>
- Projects must be completed between July 1st and June 1st of each year and all receipts submitted to the Marion SWCD by June 1st of the project completion year

To complete the application, answer the questions in the attached pages completely by typing or printing in blue or black ink. **For ease of processing, we encourage you to type your answers using the electronic application.** Please be as clear and concise as possible in explaining the project. This application may be duplicated if needed. If applications are faxed or e-mailed to the office, a copy with an original signature must be provided at the office within five business days of the application. Marion SWCD is not responsible for applications not received due to technical problems. All applications received before the 5th day of the month (or the next business day if the 5th is a weekend) will be reviewed and processed within 30-60 days. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.**

To ensure that your application is complete and in accordance with the grant guidelines, we encourage you to meet with our technical staff to make any needed adjustments or clarifications for your project.

MARION SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT APPLICATION

Section 1. Applicant Information

Applicant Name:	Farm/Business Name:
Mailing Address:	Project Address:
Phone (home):	Phone (work/mobile):
E-mail Address:	Longitude (X) _____ Latitude (Y) _____

Section 2. Project Background

- A. Have you been in contact with a Marion SWCD employee about the proposed project? Yes No
 If so, have they made a site visit to your project site? Yes No
- B. Have you filled out a *Voluntary Conservation on Your Land* packet and given a copy to Marion SWCD? Yes No
- C. Have you received any financial assistance from the District or other sources for this project? Yes No
- D. Are there any known legal or liability issues and/or controversies associated with the proposed project? Yes No

Section 3. Conservation & Innovation

A. Clearly describe the natural resource concern(s) to be addressed and why you believe it is important.

B. Briefly describe the innovative and sustainable methods you propose to utilize to address the natural resource concerns discussed in Section 3A.

C. How is this project innovative or 'special'? Has this type of project been completed in Marion County before?

D. Briefly describe the project location and land uses (crops, pasture, forest, residential, public space, commercial etc.). Please attach a project area map and indicate proximity of the project to surface water (ditches, streams, ponds, etc.). Finally, please attach relevant site photos to indicate the current site conditions of the project area.

Section 4. Timeline & Budget

A. Briefly describe the timeline of the proposed project considering: site preparation, project construction, maintenance and monitoring for five years, and any other pertinent aspects of the project.

The budget is the applicant's statement of how the Marion SWCD funds will be spent. Use this table to itemize projected costs for each expense category that applies to your project.

Please provide information in addition to the budget on all cost estimates. For example, provide work or materials bids, price quotes, estimated labor by applicant, etc.

Financial assistance for approved projects will be based on minimum specifications provided by the Marion SWCD. The cost differential for projects installed to higher specifications shall be the responsibility of the applicant. Please round figures to the nearest whole dollar when possible.

Note: A minimum of 50% cost share/in-kind is required by the applicant for the Special Projects Grant Program. Cost share/in-kind can be provided as labor costs, materials, cash, or financial assistance from other sources. The subtotal of column 4 must be *at least* 50% of the subtotal of column 5. Applicant's in-kind labor shall be charged at \$13/hour and/or at equipment rates set by Marion SWCD.

Please see the Project Budget Table on the following page.

B. Project Budget Table

Project Expense	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Cost Share/ In-Kind	Marion SWCD Requested Funds	Description of expense item and who will provide it, if known <i>(Please attach any relevant bids if applicable)</i>
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS (Seed, fencing, pipes, gravel, plants, etc.)					
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
LABOR (Work crews, establishing plants, equipment operation, etc.)					
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
		\$	\$	\$	
PRODUCTION COSTS (Design, permits, equipment — see general instructions for restrictions.)					
		\$	\$	XXXXXXXX	
		\$	\$	XXXXXXXX	
Column Subtotals			\$	\$	(Not to exceed \$5,000 in Marion SWCD funds)
Total Project Cost*			\$		(Add two subtotal columns together)

* Projects over \$50,000 may be subject to prevailing wage law.

Section 5. Education and Outreach

The Marion SWCD encourages education through demonstration of installed conservation projects. A conservation project funded by Marion SWCD may be used to educate other individuals about inventive ways to address natural resource concerns. For Example, the project may be demonstrated in a guided tour or highlighted in a presentation or written fact sheet.

- A. Are you willing to allow your project to be used as a demonstration site for other interested individuals? Yes No
- B. Are you willing to allow a sign to be placed at the site, indicating the type of project and the funding source? Yes No
- C. Comments or ideas for outreach: _____
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Section 6. Application and Agreement

I request financial assistance under the Marion SWCD Special Projects Grant Program to install the new and innovative conservation project described in Section 3B that solves the natural resource concerns described in Section 3A.

I agree to ensure that all applicable local, state, which may include water rights, and federal permits are obtained for installation of the project(s) requested. Also, I agree to maintain the project(s) for its design life as determined by the Marion SWCD in the project specification(s) provided by the Marion SWCD and described in Section 3B. I give Marion SWCD permission to inspect the project(s) (by field review) at least yearly or as often as necessary for compliance until the end of the project design life in accordance with policy of the Marion SWCD.

Further, I agree to refund all or part of the financial assistance paid to me as determined by the Marion SWCD if the grant-funded project(s) fails within its design life due to circumstances within my control (i.e. neglect, failure to protect and maintain project(s), destruction of project(s) before the expiration of its design life, or other actions which cause grant-funded project(s) to become non-viable). Individuals are not responsible for project failure caused by circumstances beyond their control (e.g. fire, flood, drought, storm damage, etc.)

If a sign is applicable as determined by Marion SWCD for my project site, I agree that (initial and date):

- Marion SWCD will pay for all costs required to order the sign. _____ initial _____ date
- I will install the sign in a location that is visible to the public. _____ initial _____ date
- I will maintain the sign and keep it free of visual barriers for five years after installation. _____ initial _____ date
- Individuals are not responsible for damage to the sign that is beyond their control (e.g. auto accident, storm damage, vandalism, etc.) _____ initial _____ date

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Property Owner (if Applicant is Lessee) Date

FOR OFFICE USE

Received by

Date

Approved for Funding by Marion SWCD Board of Directors Date